

JAMES M. INHOFE
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530
TULSA, OK 74104
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE
3817 NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 780
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112
(405) 208-8841

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

INTELLIGENCE
EX OFFICIO

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Kenneth J. Braithwaite
Secretary
Department of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

RE: Naming USNS Muscogee Nation

Dear Secretary Braithwaite,

I am writing to request a future ship of the *Navajo*-class of towing and salvage ships (T-ATS) be named the USNS *Muscogee Nation*, in honor of the contributions of the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to the defense of the United States throughout our history.

The Navy has a long tradition of naming ships after Native American tribes and I am greatly pleased that the *Navajo*-class will continue this legacy. With nearly 90,000 enrolled citizens, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth-largest tribe in the United States. Thousands of its citizens have served honorably or are currently serving in all branches of our armed forces. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a long naval tradition, even having at one time its own navy that predated the establishment of the United States. The second treaty that the United States ever entered into with a sovereign nation was in 1790 with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. From that moment forward, the service, commitment, and sacrifice of Muscogee (Creek) citizens to the defense of our country has been an important part of our national story. Serving as the namesake of a future *Navajo*-class ship would be an appropriate and deserving honor for their contributions to our national defense.

I have attached a copy of a letter from Principal Chief David W. Hill endorsing this request. I strongly support Chief Hill's request and urge you to give it the fullest possible consideration as you move forward with the ship naming process. I look forward to hearing from you and to a future *Navajo*-class ship honoring the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. My point of contact for this matter is Don Archer, 202-224-1447 or don_archer@inhofe.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator